Statement

State-wise physical targets, financial allocation and amounts released to the State Governments for Coastal Shelterbelt Plantation projects under Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme during Ninth Plan

(Amount Rupees in lakhs and Area in Hectare)

S.No.	States	Ninth Plan Physical Target	Ninth Plan Financial Allocation	Amounts released as on 31.03.2002
1	Andhra Pradesh	2050	472.44	184.96
2	Gujarat	3900	415.00	415.00
3	Karnataka	200	55.58	42.65
4	Kerala	1000	408.59	264.85
5	Orissa	8000	1488.51	607.25
6	Pondicherry	448	90.32	20.12
7	Tamil Nadu	1000	308.70	184.55
8	West Bengal	150	30.02	23.82
	TOTAL :	16748	3269.16	1743.20

Increase in forest cover

2825. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to monitor increase in forest cover in the country;

(b) if so, the details of increase, State-wise; and

(c) if not, whether Government are thinking seriously to develop forest cover, in view of increase in pollution and less rainfall in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 using satellite imageries. As per latest State of Forest Report, 1999, forest cover in the country has shown an increase of 3896 sq.km in the period from 1996 to 1998. State-wise details of change in forest cover are given in enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Various steps taken to develop forest cover in the country are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes.

(v) A network of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments in conservation and development of forest resources.

Statement

Comparative account of forest cover of States / UTs in 1997 and 1999 assessments

State / UT	1997 Assessment	1999 Assessment	Change (sq.km.)
	Forest cover (sq.km.)	Forest cover (sq.km.)	
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	43,290	44,229	+939
Arunachal Pradesh	68,602	68,847	+245
Assam	23,824	23,688	−136
Bihar	26,524	26,474	−50
Goa	1,252	1,251	−1
Gujarat	12,578	12,965	+387
Haryana	604	964	+360
Himachal Pradesh	12,521	13,082	+561
Jammu & Kashmir	20,440	20,441	+1
Karnataka	32,403	32,467	+64
Kerala	10,334	10,323	−11
Madhya Pradesh	131,195	131,830	+635
Maharashtra	46,143	46,672	+529
Manipur	17,418	17,384	−34
Meghalaya	15,657	15,633	−24
Mizoram	18,775	18,338	−437
Nagaland	14,221	14,164	−57
Orissa	46,941	47,033	+92
Punjab	1,387	1,412	+25
Rajasthan	13,353	13,871	+518
Sikkim	3,129	3,118	−11
Tamil Nadu	17,064	17,078	+14
Tripura	5,546	5,745	+199
Uttar Pradesh	33,994	34,016	+22

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	8,349	8,362	+13
A & N Islands	7,613	7,606	−7
Chandigarh	7	7	0
D & N Haveli	204	202	−2
Daman & Diu	3	3	0
Delhi	26	88	+62
Lakshadweep*	—	—	—
Pondicherry*	—	—	—
TOTAL :	633,397	637,293	+3,896

**No discernible forest cover.*

Permission for modified Bt Cotton/seed

2826. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to allow farmers to cultivate genetically modified Bt Cotton seeds which reportedly had the potential to dramatically improve crops, while cutting down the use of pesticides;

(b) whether the approval has been granted for a limited period only; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the broad parameters/conditionalities laid down, if any, for growing any specific GM Cotton crop; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor and the present status of consideration?